

Testimony of (written-only)
Nicole M. Rawcliffe
67 Miller Rd.
Burlington, CT 06013

In support of HB 5653 AAC Chemicals of High Concern to Children

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and honorable members of the Children's Committee:
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 5653 AAC
Chemicals of High Concern to Children.

I am a lifelong resident of Connecticut and a mother of three children under the age of 12. I am writing to you today to voice my support for HB 5653.

As a parent, the safety and well being of my children is number one in my mind; from the correct car seat for their age, to healthy food choices, to holding hands while crossing the street and wearing a helmet while biking. It is my paramount responsibility to be informed on all safety issues. That includes toxic and harmful chemicals in our environment that pose a risk to our children's health.

Umbilical cord analyses show that U.S. babies are born with an average of 200 industrial chemicals (found in consumer products). Some of these chemicals are already known to be neurotoxic, carcinogenic and endocrine disrupting. Couple this with the rise, over the last few decades, of certain childhood cancers, learning/behavioral disorders, such as ADHD and autistic spectrum disorders and asthma and diabetes in children, we have a public health concern of great importance that needs strong and effective solutions. HB5653 will require the DPH to identify chemicals of concern to children based on the toxicity and exposure hazard and then the DPH would make recommendations for action to the legislature every 2 years. And, it has NO fiscal impact to the state. It will allow every opportunity to prevent disease and use precaution in our marketplace when it comes to the chemicals we use in products that have gone almost completely unregulated. There are over 82,000 chemicals that are unregulated and have, for the most part, not been tested for safety. The federal Toxic Chemicals Substances Control Act has not been updated since 1976.

We are very fortunate to be living in a country and state where we can make informed choices when it comes to the well being of ourselves and our children. And in most cases we have information at our fingertips; however, more focus needs to be placed on identifying toxic chemicals that are harmful to children. I believe that HB 5653 will begin the process of identifying chemicals of concern in our products.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your commitment to the health of Connecticut's residents. I urge your support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Nicole M. Rawcliffe
67 Miller Rd.
Burlington, CT 06013